

Staying in touch despite adversity

Musa MARJANLI
Editor-in-Chief

This issue of our magazine comes out in a somewhat extraordinary situation – the coronavirus pandemic has affected all aspects of our life to a certain degree, but international relations have been hit particularly strongly. Nevertheless, we are trying to keep abreast of the current events and match our stories with the most pressing items of the international agenda.

Tensions on the Azerbaijani-Armenian frontline flared up with fresh ferocity in July. Armenia staged yet another provocation, once again showing its already obvious unwillingness to settle this conflict. Although the aggressor received a fitting rebuff yet again, people died, including a civilian in the borderline Azerbaijani village. Thus, the world's attention was once again drawn to this conflict, one of the oldest on the political map of the world as it has been dragging on for three decades.

Using the example of the largest of such minorities, the Yezidi Kurds, the article clearly demonstrates the situation of discrimination and humiliation in which representatives of non-titular nations are forced to live in Armenia.

We believe that readers might also be interested in an article that has an inner connection with the above two. It is about the tragic events in the center of Azerbaijan's historical region of Karabakh, the city of Shusha, in 1905. In an atmosphere of internal turmoil that gripped the Russian Empire, the Armenian-Azerbaijani massacre broke out in Shusha, sowing feud between the two peoples and paving the way for bloodshed of tens of thousands of victims and the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of people from the homes of their ancestors.

Other stories of interest include an article about the coats of arms of the three republics that existed in Northern Azerbaijan during the 20th century – the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic and the modern Republic of Azerbaijan. Also worth mentioning is an article dedicated to the prominent figure of Azerbaijani musical art, Azerbaijan's first professional female pianist Khadija Gayibova, who, along many prominent public and political figures, fell victim to the Bolshevik terror of the 1930s.

In conclusion, we express hope that despite the various unforeseen situations the current year of the coronavirus pandemic is full of, we will continue to meet with our readers on a regular basis. Therefore, do stay with us!